

line 4, replace "centring" with --centering--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim [1] 19, wherein:

[characterized in that said surface or surfaces and] said container body [have, in] has
a substantially circular cross-section[, a form contained in a circular volume].

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim [1 or 2] 19, wherein:

said [in which the container body (1) has a] cavity [(3) which] is essentially prismatic
and has an essentially rectangular cross-section;

5 [, and] a cylindrical connecting part [(5)] for filling[, characterized in that it has at least
one surface projecting] projects from said container body.

Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim [1 or 2 or 3] 19, wherein:

said indicia wall [characterized in that said surface is a portion of a cylindrical wall,]

SUB B17 also ~~[forming one of the walls]~~ forms a wall of the container body [(Fig. 7)].

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

SUB B17 5. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim [1 or 2 or 3] 19, wherein:

[characterized in that said surface] said indicia wall is formed by a flat laminar zone projecting from ~~[the]~~ said container body.

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

SUB B17 6. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim [1 or 2 or 3] 19, wherein;

[characterized in that said surface] said indicia wall is formed by a flat laminar zone [(7)] developed as an extension of [one of the walls of the] a wall of said cavity parallel to [the] a direction [(F)] of [the] said detection rays of an optical [analysing] analyzing system.

Please amend claim 7 as follows.

SUB B17 7. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein:

[characterized in that] said laminar zone [(7)] extends symmetrically on opposite sides of [the essentially prismatic] said cavity [(3)] , said cavity having a substantially prismatic shape.

Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

SUB B17 8. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to [Claims 6 or 7] Claim 6, wherein:

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[characterized in that the] longitudinal edges [(7A, 7B)] of said laminar zone and an additional projection [(7C)] located at a distance from said edges define a volume of the test tube contained and [centred] centered in a cylindrical housing.

Please amend claim 9 as follows.

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9. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein:

[characterized in that] said additional projection [(7C)] is longitudinal and is developed along [the] a plane of symmetry perpendicular to said laminar zone [(7)] .

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Please cancel claims 10 and 11 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 12 as follows.

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12. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim [11] 19, wherein:

[characterized in that] said [flat laminar zone] indicia wall projects tangentially from the cylindrical container body.

Please amend claim 13 as follows.

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13. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein:

[characterized in that] said [flat laminar zone] indicia wall projects on opposite sides of the cylindrical body.

Please amend claim 14 as follows.

14. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to [at least] Claim [11] 19, wherein:
[characterized in that it comprises two flat laminar zones] two of said indicia walls
are provided on said container body and are substantially [which are-essentially] parallel and
spaced from one another.

Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) Test tube apparatus according to Claim [1] 19, wherein:
[with a] said container body [which] has an essentially prismatic shape and a
rectangular cross-section;
[, characterized in that] a bar code is applied onto at least one of the walls
[essentially] substantially parallel to the detection rays [of the optical analysing system].

Please cancel claims 16 - 18 without prejudice and add the following new claims.

19. A test tube apparatus comprising:
a cylindrical container body defining a cavity capable of holding a sample, said
container body having a longitudinal axis and opposite walls extending along said
longitudinal axis, said opposite walls being formed of a material and a shape for passing
detection rays through said opposite walls and through said cavity;
an indicia wall connected to said container body and extending longitudinally along

said container body, said indicia wall being spaced from said opposite walls and spaced from the detection rays, said indicia wall being receivable of optically readable information.

20. The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein:

said indicia wall has a substantially flat surface substantially parallel with said longitudinal axis of said container body.

21. The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein:

said indicia wall has a substantially flat surface substantially parallel to the detection rays.

22. The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein:

said indicia wall is non-intersecting of the detection rays, and said indicia wall is in a plane substantially parallel with said longitudinal axis of said container body, said indicia wall has a substantially flat surface substantially parallel to the detection rays.

23. The apparatus in accordance with claim 20, wherein:

said substantially flat surface has a width larger than a distance between said opposite walls.

24. The apparatus in accordance with claim 22, wherein:

said indicia wall extends away and outward from said container body;

said indicia wall extends in a plane substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said container body;

said substantially flat surface of said indicia wall has a width larger than a distance between said opposite walls;

said cavity has a length in a direction of said longitudinal axis and a width in a direction substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, said length having a magnitude which is greater than a plurality of multiples of a maximum said width;

an optical detector travels along said container body and detects the sample in said container body by passage of the detection rays through said container body;

an indicia reader means travels along said container body and reads data on said indicia wall.

25. The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, wherein:

said container body and said indicia wall form longitudinal edges for centering and supporting said container body in a seat.

26. The apparatus in accordance with claim 19, further comprising:

optical detection means for traveling along said container body and detecting the sample in said container body by passage of the detection rays through said container body;

indicia reading means for traveling along said container body and reading data on